

ARKANSAS RANKS AMONG THE TOP IN THE NATION FOR TANF PROGRAM

Health and Human Services ranks Arkansas near the top of its list in three categories of TANF Program Administration. Arkansas' TANF program is called Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA). Among all state welfare to work programs Arkansas was designated 4th in Job Entry, 2nd in Success in the Workforce and 5th in Medicaid/SCHIP enrollments. "DHS' Division of County Operations has consistently set and achieved new goals in helping Arkansas back to work," said Kurt Knickrehm, DHS Director. "This recognition demonstrates the department's commitment to be good stewards of tax dollars." The rankings bring with it a \$2.8 million dollar bonus award to the Department. The award is part of \$200 million in TANF High Performance Bonuses overall to 37 states. DHS plans to use the additional funding to strengthen programs and services.

"This funding enables us to invest in ways to improve our programs for our clients without tapping much needed state dollars," said Joni Jones, DHS' Director of County Operations. Earlier this month the Health and Human Services presented DHS with a \$1.3 million dollar check in bonus funding for its administration of the Food Stamp Program. "In the face of dwindling resources, the frontline workers have done a tremendous job of providing services to Arkansans in need and administering an efficient program," added Jones. In 2003, Arkansas' TEA program assisted more than 6,000 adults and more than 18,000 children.

DCFS Therapeutic Foster Care: The Reward of Giving



Barbara Chase and Frank Chase from Cherry Valley have been in the “Kid’s” Business since forever-- having a grown son and daughter. ---The couple has been involved in Therapeutic Foster Care since 1991 with Mid South Health Systems. Since being in the Mid South TFC Program, Barbara has made over 25 quilts for children in the program. In her lifetime, she estimates that she has made around 75 plus quilts for family and friends. Each quilt that Barbara makes is specially designed to fit that unique child in the program—she looks until she finds just the right material to match their interests and likes.

DHS AROUND THE STATE

Sacrifice for the children

Linda Keilty, Housekeeper at the **Alexander Human Development Center**, donated her hair to **Locks of Love** to benefit children that has lost their hair due to cancer. Ms. Keilty went to Tangles Beauty Salon in Little Rock and on the spur of the moment decided to donate her 8 inches of hair to this organization. Hair is collected and wigs are made for children. Let's give Linda a hand of applause for her great donation!

Weaving Away Looming Materials

Clients at the Booneville Human Development Center understand the concept of recycling. They learned this concept first hand creating unique arts and crafts pieces.

A group of clients creates rugs and place mats through a process that begins with reusing material donated from a sock company.

The clients clean, sort, dye, dry, tie the material into loops and then weave it together on a loom.

The rugs and place mats are dyed any color imaginable; for example rugs come in 4th of July, camouflage, and natural (khaki) colors. These one of a kind works of art are sold at crafts fairs around the state and all proceeds benefit the Booneville HDC.

The price of the rugs ranges from ten to thirty dollars depending on the rug. Those interested in ordering please call the Booneville HDC at 479-675-1488.

Blue Ribbon Winner!

The Franklin County Fair, in Ozark, Arkansas, was held on August 20th and one of our employees has blue ribbons to prove it! **Georgia Schroeder (Franklin County DHS)** worked over 15 years on her submissions, an embroidered quilt top and a picture of Raggedy Ann and Andy. Both entries won the coveted Blue Ribbon. Georgia has worked for the state for 23 years.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*October 31st - Last Day for Open
Enrollement for Employee Health Insurance*

November 2nd - Election Day

*More news from the **Healthy
Arkansas** file.....*



Nevada County DHS has a plan to promote exercise within its offices. The employees all chipped in to buy a treadmill. An exercise bike has also been donated to the office. A vacant office is now the exercise room. They also plan to add free weights and a radio to complete the exercise room. Employees are encouraged to use the equipment at lunch, breaks, and before or after work.

Compassion Award Winners

The Compassion Award is a true representation of the compassion shown by each recipient to those persons in our community who are affected by or are infected with HIV/AIDS. It is the symbol of the Arkansas Aids Foundation's gratitude for their contribution, hard work and giving spirit. The award is a unique work of art presented to some truly unique individuals. It represents the best in each of us.

Melinda (Mills) Coleman (Office of Employee Relations, OCC) was one of the Compassion Award Winners at the Arkansas Aids Foundation 11th Annual Compassion Awards held October 8, 2004 at the Women's City Club in Little Rock. Other winners included: Mrs. Gordon (Willie) Oates; Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Judy) Tenenbaum; Mr. Devon Lucie; Mr. Jon Allen, PA; J. Oliver's Fine Jewelry; Mr. Carl Sachs; Mr. Steve Mills, and Ms. Sylvana Niciteretse.

Article

A Final Thought....

Helping Hands During A Time of Crisis...

Recently, residents from Northeast Arkansas were able to help with the relief effort for evacuees from neighboring states that were escaping the wrath of Hurricane Ivan. One group of evacuees said that they received "true southern hospitality" during their temporary stay at the Jonesboro Human Development Center, which provided food and recreation for Louisiana residents. More than 60 developmentally disabled clients, parents and staff of Community Living Alternative (New Orleans, LA) were welcomed to Jonesboro in an effort to avoid the storm. Several local businesses, organizations and groups worked together to coordinate funds, goods, and services for the visitors during their stay. Even in times of crisis, when we work together good things happen.



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